Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An electromechanical 1 switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one ٠2 3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with 4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces 5 6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a 7 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with 8 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the 9 10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) prestressed in a transition area between the switching 11 12 (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently 13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein three or four contact surfaces (2) 14 15 are associated with the switching element (1).

Claim 2 (previously presented): The switch according to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises a thermoplastic.

1

2

٠5

6

7

8

9

10

.11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

1

2

3

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1)with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) prestressed in a transition area between the switching and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently (1) pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and a cover (6) with an opening (6') through which protrudes a part of the switching element (1) with a diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with

associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), 4 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces 5 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a 7 8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the 9 : (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm 10 switch housing prestressed in a transition area between the switching 11 12 (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 13 surfaces (2), wherein the switching element (1) is pin-14 15 shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end (1'), which makes contact with the contact surfaces (2) is 16 17 rounded into a convex tip.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm prestressed in a transition area between the switching

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

- and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently 12 element (1)pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 13 14 surfaces (2), wherein, in the area where it rests against the switching element (1) and/or in the transition area 15 between the switching element (1) and its connection to the 16 `17 [†] switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5) is provided on its inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7). 18
 - Claim 7 (previously presented): The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switching element (1) comprises a metal.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm prestressed in a transition area between the switching

. 1

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

- element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the contact surfaces (2) comprise contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching element (1) are hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.
- claim 10 (previously presented): The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switch housing (4; 6) comprises a 2-component injection-molded plastic material.
- Claim 11 (previously presented): Use of a switch per one of the claims 1, 2 and 4-10 in miniaturized devices.
- Claim 12 (previously presented): The switch according to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric material.
- 1 Claim 13 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one 2 3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), 4 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces 5 6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed 7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a 8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with

- the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the ૃ 9 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm 10 11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently 12 element (1) 13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 14 to establish an electrically conductive surfaces (2) 15 connection between the contact surfaces.
 - Claim 14 (previously presented): The use of the switch
 according to claim 11, wherein the miniaturized devices are
 hearing aids.
 - Claim (new): An electromechanical switch incorporating housing in its switch at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

- surfaces (2) to establish a first electrically conductive
 connection between at least two of the contact surfaces in
 a first position of the switching element and a second
 electrically conductive connection between at least two of
 the contact surfaces in a second position of the switching
 element.
 - 1 Claim 16 electromechanical (new): An switch 2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one pin 3 shaped, electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), 4 5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed 6 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a 7 8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with 9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the 10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm is 11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching 12 and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently (1) 13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 14 surfaces (2) to establish an electrically conductive 15 connection between the contact surfaces.
 - 1 Claim 17 (new): An electromechanical switch 2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one rigid,

્ 3 conductive switching element electrically (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), 4 5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed 6 7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the • 9 10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) prestressed in a transition area between the switching 11 12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 13 establish an electrically conductive 14 surfaces (2) to connection between the contact surfaces. .15